Community of Christ

Bethel Congregation
Midlands Mission Center
Welcoming the online community
Kansas City, KS
November 8, 2026 10:30AM CDT

The Kingdom Is Like…

Presiding **High Priest Stan Troeh**

Announcements

Gathering Hymn "Bring Forth the Kingdom" **CCS #387**

Welcome

Lectionary – Where Are We?

Invitation to Worship **Psalm 78:5-7**

[5]He established a decree in Jacob
and appointed a law in Israel,
which he commanded our ancestors
to teach to their children,
[6]that the next generation might know them,
the children yet unborn,
and rise up and tell them to their children,
[7]so that they should set their hope in God,
and not forget the works of God,
but keep his commandments;

***Opening Hymn** "For the Healing of the Nations" **CCS #297**
***Invocation**
***Response**

Prayer for Peace see insert **Jordan Joyce**

Hymn "Healing River of the Spirit" **CCS #232**

Ministry of the Word **Seventy Kyle Joyce**

Disciples' Generous Response https://bit.ly/BethelGifts

***Closing Hymn** "Send Forth Your Light, O Zion" **CCS #622**
***Closing Prayer**
***Congregation invited to stand**

Bethel Community of Christ bethel.forthrightsystems.com
Pastor Rob de Zwart
Financial Officer Jeff Cady
Media Host David Troeh

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Announcements

- **Sunday 11/8** **9:45 am** **Lectionary Disc.—** Matt 25:1-13
  10:30 am ***The Kingdom Is Like…***
  Seventy Kyle Joyce speaking
- **Tuesday 11/10** **7:00 pm** **Together Tuesday CANCELLED**
- **Sunday 11/15** **9:45 am** **Lectionary Disc.—**Matt 25:14-30
  10:30 am ***Invest in God's Future***
  Elder Grace Troeh speaking
- **Sunday 12/13** **9:45 am** **BUSINESS MEETING**

Our website, including weekly bulletin, web and zoom links:
bethel.forthrightsystems.com

- **Give** through eTithing (https://www.cofchrist.org/give)
  Optionally, search for Bethel, KS (or use link)

Recordings

Bring Forth the Kingdom - CCS 387 - The Beyond the Walls Choir
https://youtube.com/watch?v=tyUsFgy6zQ4

For the Healing of the Nations - CCS 297 - The Beyond the Walls Choir
https://youtube.com/watch?v=5Yw-aFOI-f4

Send Forth Your Light, O Zion - CCS 622 - The Beyond the Walls Choir https://youtube.com/watch?v=45-hvSVFgwU

Lectionary

3-year cycle engaging significant portions of our Scripture.

This Week Nov 8 **The Kingdom Is Like. . .**

Matthew 25:1-13 Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
Psalm 78:1-7 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

Next Week Nov 15 **Invest in God's Future**

Matthew 25:14-30 Judges 4:1-7
Psalm 123 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Generosity Cycle https://cofchrist.org/generosity-cycle/
Week 4 meditation https://youtube.com/watch?v=Q-7mzPAvrms

Prayer for Peace

Lord, have mercy: A prayer for shalom (October 23, 2026)

A binational prayer for and by the members of Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada during the 2026 U.S. midterm elections, which conclude on Election Day, Nov. 3.

God of Shalom,
We come to you as a community of Christians who are troubled by the increasing violence in our world. We are praying with clarity and a newfound intensity for lasting peace rooted in justice.
We are troubled by wars and threats of wars in Iran, Lebanon, Gaza, Sudan and Ukraine, and with threats leveled also by the United States against Canada and Greenland. This is a foreboding cloud over us all.

We pray,
[congregation] **Lord, have mercy.**

We are troubled by rising costs of gasoline, food and U.S.-traded goods that are increasingly tariffed, making life unnecessarily difficult for people around the world.

We pray,
[congregation] **Lord, have mercy.**

We are troubled by news of changing immigration laws and deportations that create dangerous situations for undocumented refugees and immigrants, especially as we remember that Jesus himself was a refugee.

We pray,
[congregation] **Lord, have mercy.**

We are troubled by the hate and discrimination that is directed at the most vulnerable among us.

We pray,
[congregation] **Lord, have mercy.**

We are troubled by how these changes in our world affect those who are least protected and already reeling from the withdrawal of so much global aid. We fear that they are being pushed past their breaking point — especially as the U.S. midterm elections approach.

We pray,
[congregation] **Lord, have mercy.**

Prayer for Peace continued

[pause]
In the weeks and months to come:
Give us strength to keep praying, even when mercy feels far away.
With steadfast hope that your kin-dom will come on earth as it is in heaven, we pray:

- that the wars will come to an end and that the weapons will fall silent so that people may trust each other again and sleep without fear.
- that our leaders on both sides of the border will be good and wise, and that our families and churches will heal from the polarization that separates us.
- that those who are targets of hate will be protected from harm and comforted by God's love during this season.
- that our churches will increasingly become places of refuge for those who suffer, homes open to the stranger, and places of reconciliation for those whom politics, fear, prejudice or wounds have divided.

We dream, O God:

- of a world where people trust one another and work toward the safety and flourishing of their neighbors without fear of being left behind.
- of a world where people feel celebrated and loved in the fullness of who they are, even when identities are changing, uncertain or challenging of social norms.
- of a world where all people are free to enter into healthy, meaningful, reciprocal relationships with land and water, and to learn how all creation is an expression of God's love.
- of a world where even through the cracks of hardship and economic distress, light and compassion break through to heal those who are most vulnerable.

We are not simply asking you, O God, to bring peace. We are asking your Spirit to move in and through us, so that, together, we build a world founded on shalom:

- Teach us to recognize our neighbor in the person who does not speak our language, who does not carry our passport, who does not come from our people and who does not look like us.
- Give us courage to use our collective power to change systems and structures of violence.
- Empower us to work for justice in the streets and in our congregations.
- Grant us hope and vision to sustain this witness of peace in a volatile world.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the Christ —
the One we follow,
the One we imitate.
Amen.

Many thanks to the collaborators from Mennonite Church USA and Canada who wrote this prayer: Marty Lehman and Mykayla Turner, who compiled and edited the prayer, and contributors James Barber, Thomas Beech, Catherine Bergs Mohr, Eliot Chandler Burns, Joanna Lawrence Shenk, Suella Lehman Gerber, Merveille Mwankin, Bimal Thambyah, Jerrell Williams and Ykhann Bamis.

Community of Christ

Your Story Is Church History

If you, your family or your congregation have a story or announcement you'd like to have highlighted in a futue Sacred Newsletter. Please send an email to
jpy cior@ midlandsmc.org
rheverling@ cofchrist.org

midlands
Community of Christ

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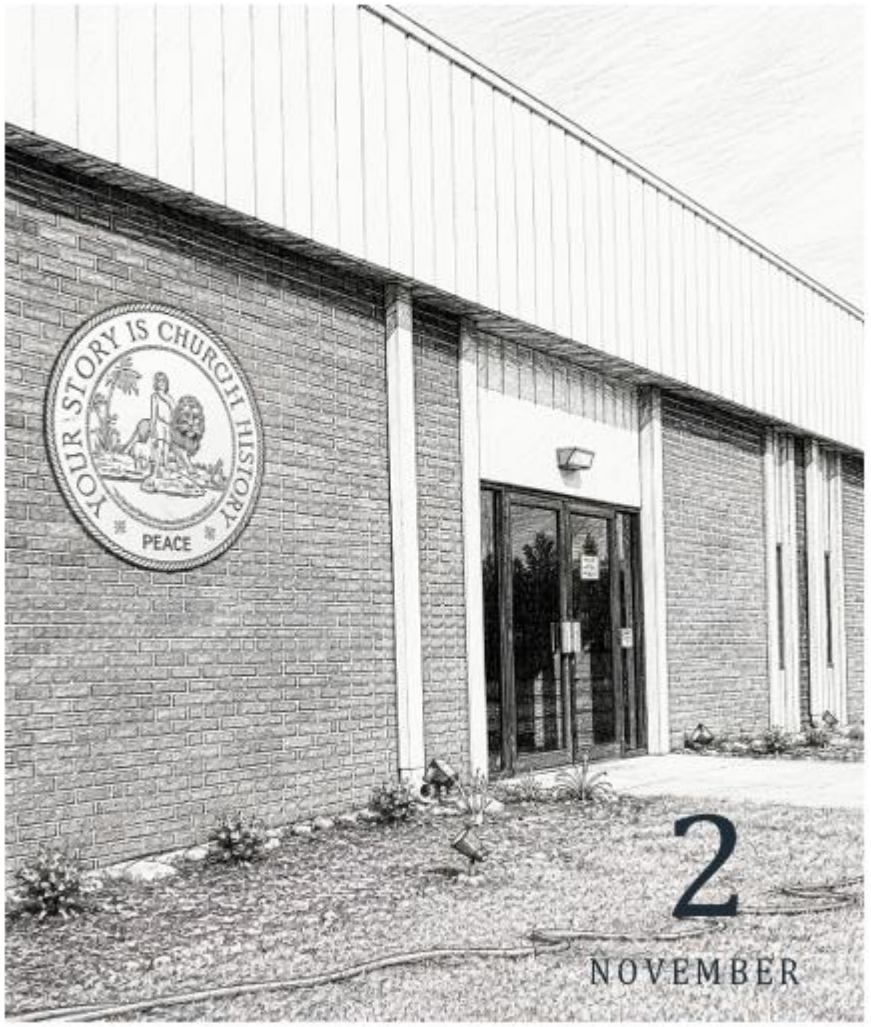
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SACRED

Midlands Mission Center Community of CHrist USA



Issue Highlights:
Midlands MC at the Peace Forum
A Decade of Being A Pastor
Olathe & Shawnee Dr. Celebrate 75 years!

CONNECT WITH US:
midlandsmc.org



75 year anniversary of Shawnee Drive Congregation

"Serving the community is our legacy in all the ways; from helping the schools make sure students have the supplies they need so they can just show up and have fun to creating a church space where everyone is accepted." - Haumana, Shawnee Drive





Celebrating 75 years of Olathe Congregation

Olathe Congregation just had its 75th anniversary as well and has been selected for this issue's Congregation Highlight. Olathe Congregation has had a year rich with youth and family ministry; From bible reenactments on Sunday morning to baby blessings to picnics in the park.

For 75 years, Olathe Community of Christ has been more than a congregation—it has been a family. Rooted in love, belonging, and service, this intergenerational community brings together a rich tapestry of people, perspectives, and lived experiences. In a world often divided by political and ideological differences, Olathe continues to prioritize relationships over division, finding unity not in thinking alike, but in caring for one another. Across generations, its members share a commitment to building meaningful connections, nurturing families, and making a positive impact beyond their walls. Seventy-five years later, their greatest legacy remains the community they continue to create.

Donate here:
Follow this QR code to donate to any ministries in Midlands Mission Center

Racial Justice Summit

Sat Nov 7, 12:00 - 5:30 pm

The event sponsored by KC Disciples Becoming Beloved Community features Rev. Dr. Hanna R. Broome. It will be held at Intersect KC in KCMO. Register at KCDisciples.org/racial-justice

6pm Sundays YAM (Young Adult Ministry) online – contact Mikki Phillippe at mphilippe@cofchrist.org.

6pm Sunday, September 27 – Youth EMERGE online – contact Humberto Tinsman htinsman@cofchrist.org

~~Bi-monthly online Young Adult Coffee Talk – htinsman@cofchrist.org for information and the link.~~

*all events are at Community of Christ Temple
201 S. River Blvd. Independence MO 64050
more at centerforlivingwater.org

Sacred Flow	Wed November 4 7:30 - 8:30 pm
Sacred Pulse	Sat November 21 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Midlands at Peace Forum





Community of Christ International Headquarters held our recurring Peace Forum in October. This year awarding Bill McKibbins with the International Peace Award. Midlands showed up in strong spirit and participation. See Tom & Susan Webber

Hope from a Midlands Young Adult



Josie Jenson is a member of The Highlands Congregation and a first-year college student at MCC Maple Woods focusing on her gen-eds and considering future study in psychology. Josie loves painting, art and playing the piano. Right now she's loving playing hymns.

When asked what gives her hope in this moment, what's she's most excited to see happening in Midlands Josie answered the dinner church.

"The Lift." Jenson elaborated, "I'm looking forward to that. I'm hoping that it be a new thing that it be a blessing to many people not just church people. That's kind of the goal as Christians, to be a blessing to other people. The way it's framed is a new way of thinking for me. It's framed not as trying to get people to go to church, but to focus on and create a meaningful space for unchurched people."

Alli Arnold - 10 years Serving Olathe Pastor Team



"I'm grateful for the space I've gotten to make for other expressions of spiritual formation that might be familiar or routine to us. My hope is that younger people in Olathe congregation have seen and felt that there is space and there are lots of way to fully spiritually connect and express yourself. I personally don't connect as much outwardlly or in big groups, but in more interpersonal practices. Spirituality that is accessible anywhere has become incredibly meaningful to me."

Alli has served on the Olathe pastor team for 10 years. You can't ask one person in the congregation about her impact without many voices nearby excitedly weighing in. Her leadership and and ministry have been impactful and we're excited to see what she does in her ministry next.

CENTRAL AVENUE CENTER OF HOPE

EMPOWER | HEAL | THRIVE | BELONG

11 N. 15th St., Kansas City, KS 66102
(913) 233-2511
www.centralavenuecenterofhope.org

We are currently transitioning to a new full-time site director, Michelle Anderson. We are also in search of a part-time team lead. Do you know of a good candidate? If so, let Michelle know.
michelle@centralavenuecenterofhope.org

We Always Need Donations for pantry and paper
see more on our website

Upcoming:
Thanksgiving Dinner
Christmas Dinner

***Not taking Thrift Store Donations for the time being**

Get ivolved with SHARE

Share, Inc. (or Share Incorporated) is a non-profit organization responsible for overseeing specific outreach ministries, most notably Camp MITIOG more at midlandsmc.org

SHARE

Harmony (online church)
harmony_lgbt

Welcoming & Affirming
Congregations in KC metro

Lees Summit
1101 NE Independence Ave
Lee's Summit, Mo 64086

Woods Chapel
500 NE Woods Chapel Rd
Lee's Summit, Mo 64064

Liberty
1220 West Liberty Drive
Liberty, Mo 64068

University
1900 University Drive
Lawrence, Ks 66044

The Table
201 S River Blvd
Independence, Mo 64050

Bethel
8510 Leavenworth Rd
Kansas City, Ks 66109

Shawnee Dr
4440 Shawnee Drive
Kansas City, Ks 66106

Harmony
Online

Harmony provides advocacy, education, and resources for Queer voices* in Community of Christ with a shared vision of full participation.

JPAT BOOK STUDY

7pm Tuesdays 11/10

Join us as we explore Healing the Heart of Democracy by Parker Palmer. As the tension of living in a divided nation grows, finding common ground becomes more difficult each day. Palmer uses our hearts as a guide to reconcile and restore our democracy of freedom and responsibility. Registration is at bit.ly /JPAT-BS26.

More at jp atkc.squarespace.com

SAVE SOME DATES

November 6 — You've had a busy week. The job is stressing you out. Maybe the work/life balance of your family is overwhelming. Struggling at college? Feeling a little lonely? Need an infusion of hope and peace? Maybe you just need a lift?

Come be part of *The Lift*... a new nearby community you can belong to. Come and be yourself. Share a meal, good conversation, music, and be ministered to.

Come be part of *The Lift*. A Free Community Dinner will begin Nov. 6 with a worship service and dinner every Friday at 6 pm.

New church plant coming to the Highlands facility.

Upcoming CIMM Sessions

November 4
The Nauvoo Expostior Begat the Reorganization - Tony Chvala-Smith

November 11
Community of Christ Priesthood - President Janne' Grover

November 18
Nomads for Peace- Andrea & Mark Johnson

December 2
Community of Christ Bylaws - President Stassi Cramm

December 9
Israel/Palestine Pt 2 - Andrew Bolton & Panel

December 16
Liberation Theology & Collective Salvation - Michael Wright

REGISTER HERE www.graceland.edu/academics/community-of-christ-seminary /center-for-innovation-in-ministry-and-misssion/



This is the way
with
rob heverling
your mission center president

I am not a good golfer. When I was a young man, I owned a bag of used clubs. Put me on a scramble team, and my mates could count on a couple of long, straight, tee shots.
There is something about standing on a hilltop tee box, a par 5 with the lush fairway cut out of the rough, showing the way to the green. The hole unfolds before you, framed by grand trees and shimmering ponds. And then, the head of your driver finds the perfect path in your backswing. From that crescendo, you uncoil with a bit of violence, like a trebuchet, and strike the ball with pure power, and it rockets off the tee, rising above the horizon, its trajectory looking like it may never come down.

Perhaps because it's rare for me, that kind of golf shot feels transcendent.
This is like experiencing the grace of God. Transcendent.

Presbyterian pastor Tim Keller once said, "God's grace is not a potion that we drink to escape reality; it is a power that transforms reality."

At Graceland College, my advisor was Professor of English and Writing, Jon Wallace. Jon had us read *Rabbit, Run*, a John Updike novel.

There is a memorable golf scene in *Rabbit, Run*, where the main character, Harry "Rabbit" Angstrom, is playing golf with an Episcopal priest named Jack Eccles. In this part, Eccles is interrogating Rabbit about why he left his wife. Rabbit is just trying to play golf, but Eccles's pestering about his failed marriage is making him angry. It's a tension-filled scene.
Much more remarkable than my description of a tee shot, here's Updike's version:

[Rabbit's] heart is hushed, held in mid-beat, by anger. He doesn't care about anything except getting out of this tangle. He wants it to rain. In avoiding looking at Eccles, he looks at the ball, which sits high on the tee and already seems free of the ground. Very simply, he brings the clubhead around his shoulder into it. The sound has a hollowness, a singleness he hasn't heard before. His arms force his head up, and his ball is hung way out, lungrly pale against the beautiful black blue of storm clouds.....It recedes along a line straight as a ruler-edge. Stricken; sphere, star, speck. It hesitates, and Rabbit thinks it will die, but he's fooled, for the ball makes its hesitation the ground of a final leap: with a kind of visible sob takes a last bite of space before vanishing in a falling. "That's it!" he cries and, turning to Eccles with a grin of aggrandizement, repeats, "That's it."

Like me, Rabbit is not a good golfer. In that moment, he feels stress, anger, and a sense of failure. But then his reality is momentarily transformed.

This is the path of a disciple of Jesus. Or at least it's been my experience of feeling undone, anxious, and self-critical, but through disciplined prayers of praise to God, thanksgiving, repentance, and asking for help, I am gifted these moments of grace when my strained reality is altered. I see new pathways, and I feel loved and hopeful again.
Experiencing God's grace is like having your short-circuiting life rewired.
Oh, it will short-circuit again. But the love of God will be there... again.
This is the way.

Shalom, Shalom, Rob